

concealment, and who lived to brave torture indeed, but to make a cowardly recantation of his errors, and die on the scaffold as a repentant son of Holy Church.

Three days before the rout of Frankenhausen, Truchsess, who had been reinforced by contingents of mercenaries returned from the Italian war, and by the troops of the Elector Palatine, had inflicted a severe defeat on the Würtemberg peasants between Boblingen and Sindelfingen. He thereafter took a terrible vengeance on Weinsberg by burning it and the neighbouring villages to the ground, and slowly roasting to death a couple of the murderers of Count Helfenstein. A fortnight later followed at Königshofen the rout of a section of the Franconian army, which had been deserted by Gotz von Berlichingen. Shortly after, another section led by Florian Geyer maintained a desperate but hopeless resistance in the castle of Ingolstadt. Truchsess then advanced on Wurzburg, which, through the treachery of the burgomaster and the council, opened its gates to his vengeance. He then directed his course southwards into Upper Swabia, to complete the bloody work of repression by the aid of the treachery of some of the peasant leaders. The ferocity with which he accomplished his task was surpassed by that of the Duke of Lorraine in Alsace, who, according to Leonhard von Eck, slaughtered twenty thousand of the insurgents, mostly in cold blood, and subsequently accounted for a good many thousands more. In Salzburg and Tyrol the struggle lasted into the year 1526, but even the brave Tyrolese mountaineers were at length cowed into submission, and their leader, Gaismayr, driven to seek an asylum in Italy.

The regular operations, which had been bloody enough, ended, the horrible work of punishment in detail began. This horrible work was called bringing the rebels to justice. Revenge is the only fitting word for it. It was indeed a most inhuman business, though very gratifying to every cut-throat who wore a prince's or a lord's coronet, or a bishop's or abbot's mitre, or boasted a knight's escutcheon. Among these cutthroats the worst were the Margrave Casimir of Brandenburg, the Duke of Lorraine, and the Bishop of Wurzburg, while among the few who showed humanity and moderation the Landgrave Philip of Baden and the Elector of the Palatinate deserve